Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—

	Names of officers.	*Names of buildings.*
1.	Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan, Ag. Chief Engineer.	Erattachira Bungalow till 24th Kanni 1104.
2.	Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, Superintendent of Excise Revenue.	Excise Superintendent's Office (western portion).
3.	Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar, Secretary to the Diwan.	Building in the eastern portion of the compound of the G. T. School, Ernakulam.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The part of the question referring to the names of those who have resided in Government buildings while in camp in 1104, with the names of the buildings has not been answered. May I know the names?

President.—There is no residence in camp.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—While in camp, they must have been residing in certain buildings.

President.—They were halting only while in camp.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Suppose they were residing for three or four days?

President.—That is not residing; it is only halting.

Unanswered questions.

308. **Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of unanswered questions up to this date, submitted by the Members of this Council? Separate statements may be made regarding the unanswered questions both in connection with the first Council and the present one.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—First Council .. 709
Second Council up to 15th December 1928 .. 377

309. **Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—Will the Government be pleased to publish all the unanswered questions asked by Members during the life-time of the first Council?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Government regret that they cannot comply with the request.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Is it because of the expense or on account of the labour and the expenditure involved in the process and the benefits are in no way a comparison that they are not answered? May I ask is the Government taking any steps to assure that all questions are answered as they come in or that inconvenient questions are not suppressed or left unanswered?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.— Government do not suppress any questions nor do they deliberately leave any questions unanswered. Questions as they are received are sent to the several Heads of Departments to supply the necessary answers.

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Those questions for which the necessary answers could be drafted in the Secretariat are answered as early as possible. In the case of questions on which information has to be received from the Heads of Departments, naturally it takes some time, and of course when the questions involve a great amount of trouble and labour, they necessarily take time.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—My question was not that. When questions are sent to the different Heads of Departments, does the Government see that all the information is supplied as early as possible and that they do not take any long time to supply the information and that certain inconvenient questions are left unanswered?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Government is seeing that all questions are returned answered as early as possible. We are receiving a good number of questions. The Member knows the total number is 2,400 and odd and of these 1,700 and odd have already been answered, and there remain only some 700 and odd questions unanswered.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I do not think the Government catches my point. Are these 700 questions of the last Council chronologically asked towards the end; or are there any in them that were received in the very beginning and for lack of information or for some other reason were not answered? Even in that case such an argument can be advanced only on the subsequent questions and not the earlier questions.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It is not possible for anybody to answer questions in the order in which they are received.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Anyhow a list of unanswered questions may be printed and published. It may be relatively about half.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I do not agree to that statement. Out of 2,400 questions 700 and odd alone are left unanswered. Relatively it is only a small percentage. The responsibility for the non-answering of the question depends more upon the nature and the total number of questions.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Seeing that there are only 700 and odd unanswered questions, will it be found very expensive to publish them? The Government Gazette contains sometimes 200 to 300 pages.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Members can renew their questions.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—What I say is when the Government is publishing Gazettes containing 200 and 300 pages, will it be found difficult to publish these 700 questions?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—But then there is nothing to prevent the Members from asking these questions again.

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Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—What I want to say is that there is a suspicion, it may be unmerited, that inconvenient questions are often left unanswered or kept pending for a long time.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I have very clearly stated that the expenditure and the labour involved are the only facts that stand in the way of Government in publishing these.

President.—I may even say that many among these 709 questions would have been repeated during this year and information also supplied by Government.

You may take it from me that there is no wilful delay either on the part of the Government or the Heads of Departments to furnish answers to questions. In fact every endeavour is being made to furnish answers to questions. Even though very many of these questions are inconvenient and entail a great deal of labour, we take the trouble of answering them. We do not suppress any on the ground that they are inconvenient.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Always publicity is a very effective weapon. Even assuming that there are some inconvenient questions which certain Heads of Departments are not willing enough to answer,and if those questions are published in the list of unanswered questions, they will be brought to book eventually. So this publicity will operate as a sort of preventive. It is for that that I ask that a few rupees, two or three rupees, may be spent to publish these questions rather than keep them back.

President.—Those questions, which were not answered and which lapsed by reason of the session coming to a close, can be repeated. All these questions come again for answer. Probably, if you examine the list, many of these questions would have been repeated and answered subsequently.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—If it is not prohibitive, then it might be published.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No Head of a Department can suppress a question.

310. Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Will the Government consider the advisability of publishing in the Government Gazette or placing on the Table of this Council, all questions not answered up-to-date and more than thirty days old?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Government regret that they cannot comply with the request.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I suppose the same reason is alleged for not publishing them. I have only asked to place on the Table such questions as are not answered up to date and that are more than thirty days old. I suppose the reasons are the same.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Yes.

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